



# October 2022 Connecting the DOTs

## 2022 Roadeos

Congratulations to our top five finishers at the State Roadeo finals. Pictured left to right are **Sam Spence (4th)**, **Curt Theisen (3rd)**, **Keith Palo (2nd)**, **Luke Neville (5th)**, and **Nathan Loecker (1st)**.



**Congratulations to the 20 Region ROADEO finalists who are pictured below.**



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### SDDOT Mission:

To efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system

### SDDOT Vision:

Better lives through better transportation by being the best

Read and listen to local news coverage of the State Roadeo Finals from [DRG News](#) and [KCCR Radio](#) by clicking on their names!

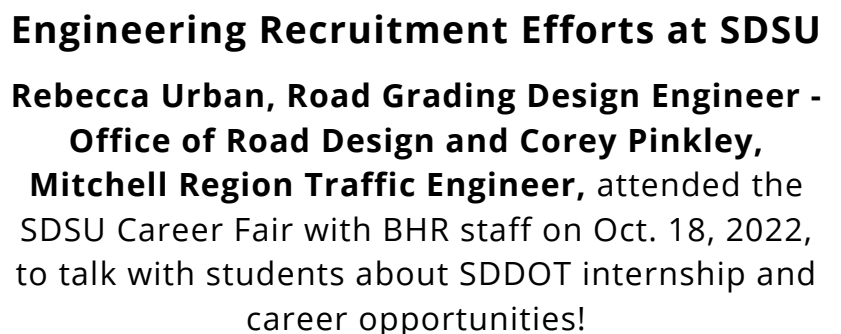
## 2022 Roadeo Video Recap:

[2022 Snowfighter Roadeo Recap.mp4](#)



In addition to attending high school and collegiate career fairs, we personally hosted **11 hiring events** this summer and fall. Our primary focus at local hiring events has been recruitment of highway maintenance and technician positions. **We had over 100 total attendees at our hiring events; and to date have officially hired 14 people as a result.** What a great recruitment model for success!

Additional referral program logistics, and an informational flyer, are available on our Intranet site at [SDDOT Intranet - Recruitment](#).







## **Pierre Central Office Employee Meetings**

**Location:** Lutheran Memorial Church in Pierre

**Date/Time:**

**Monday, Nov. 21: 9-10:30 a.m.**

Finance, Air/Rail/Transit, Aviation Services, Operation Support, Audits, and Internal Services

**Monday, Nov. 21: 1:30-3 p.m.**

Materials, ROW, Legal, Secretariat, Training, and ITS

**Monday, Nov 28: 9-10:30 a.m.**

P&E Admin./Environmental, Local Govt Assistance, Research, and Road Design

**Monday, Nov 28: 1:30-3 p.m.**

Transportation Inventory Management, Bridge, and Project Development

**\*If you are unable to attend the meeting day and time assigned to you/your office, please choose a meeting that works for you.**

**\*Pierre Region staff, who didn't attend the Rodeo and won't attend an upcoming winter engineering meeting, please plan to attend with Central Office staff in November!**



Employee input surveys were sent out to participants attending the Pierre-based employee meetings. (Email with survey was sent by Kellie Beck!) Please be sure to complete the survey to have YOUR questions asked at this meeting. Surveys are open through Nov. 10, 2022.



## **Winter Engineering Meetings/Employee Meetings in Oacoma.**

Employee input surveys will be sent out in January for these meetings.

**Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023**

Pierre and Rapid City Region staff attending winter engineering meetings

**Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023**

Mitchell and Aberdeen Region staff attending winter engineering meetings



## 2022 Snowfighter Rodeo Region Finalists



### Top 5 Drivers from the Aberdeen Region:

Place	Name/Location	Points
1st	Robert Woolridge - Aberdeen	1795
2nd	Michael Johnson - Webster	1772
3rd	Keith Palo - Hayti	1750
4th	Shawn Patton - Aberdeen	1750
5th	Daniel Evans - Redfield	1725

Top rookie was Jesse Knittel of Ipswich with 1575 points.

### Top 5 Drivers from the Mitchell Region:

Place	Name/Location	Points
1st	Chris Voelker - Madison	1995
2nd	Nathan Loecker - Yankton	1975
3rd	Curt Theisen - Sioux Falls	1950
4th	Lyle Norling - Beresford	1940
5th	Tyler Small - Junction City	1930

Top Rookie was Jared Lahr of Sioux Falls with 1850 points.

### Top 5 Drivers from the Pierre Region:

Place	Name/Location	Points
1st	Trent Hanson - Presho	1705
2nd	Sam Spence - Kadoka	1690
3rd	Christopher Byre - Mobridge	1590
4th	Luke Neville - Philip	1575
5th	Jacob Lolley - Murdo	1575

Top Rookie was Sam Spence of Kadoka with 1690 points.

### Top 5 Drivers from the Rapid City Region:

Place	Name/Location	Points
1st	Jesse King - Faith	1675
2nd	Coltin Tines - Rapid City	1625
3rd	David Pennel - Custer	1595
4th	Donald Gerard - Edgemont	1550
5th	Tatum Anderson - Sturgis	1550

Top Rookie was Tyler Ray of Custer with 1375 points.



Click on the link to view a video slideshow of the Safety Awards given out during the Snowfighter Rodeos: [2022 Rodeo Safety Awards.mp4](#)



## Community Connections

### National Walk and Bike to School Day

*Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022*

SDDOT team members from across the state assisted with National Walk and Bike to School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022. Thanks to those who sent in pictures! Click on the link below to watch a video slideshow of the day!

[\*\*Walk to School Day Recap.mp4\*\*](#)



## 2022-2023 Snowplow Naming Contest Officially OPEN



Our snowplows have been visiting schools this fall promoting safety and the snowplow contest.

**(Left) Lyle Norling, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**, is pictured with his grandsons, took Frosty the Snowplow into the Beresford Schools.

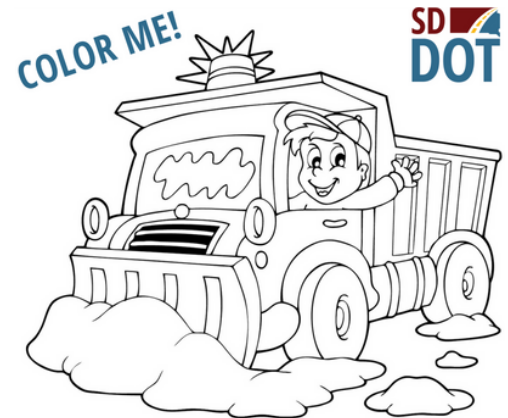
**(Right) Craig Smith, Director of Operations, and Curt Theisen, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**, visited Katelyn Smith's 2nd grade classes at St. Michael's Elementary in Sioux Falls. The visit included a Q&A on DOT snow removal, including the question, "What is the deepest snow you have plowed?" Curt's answer: "3' plowing and 15'-20' blowing snow"! The kids all had an opportunity to sit in the plow truck and honk the horn.

**The Snowplow Naming Contest is open through Nov. 30, 2022.**

The contest entry form is available on our home page: [\*\*https://dot.sd.gov/\*\*](https://dot.sd.gov/)

SDDOT-themed activity sheets are available for staff participating in school events on the branding page at [\*\*https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/media/branding-and-identity-guidelines\*\*](https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/media/branding-and-identity-guidelines)

The activity sheets provide a QR Code and the SDDOT website address for kids/families to easily start entering their favorite snowplow names!



SDDOT Snowplow  
Naming Contest:  
Now - Nov. 30, 2022



Scan Here to Enter  
Your Plow's Name  
in our Contest!

Or visit  
[\*\*https://dot.sd.gov/\*\*](https://dot.sd.gov/)  
to enter



# October Mentoring Minute

By Rick Walton and Scott Eisenbeisz



As our current Mentoring year is winding down, and the end is in sight, it's a good time to reflect on your experiences of the last year.

- **What went wrong/or right?**
- **Did you accomplish your goals?**
- **Were you able to apply what you learned?**
- **Was the experience what you hoped it would be?**

You may also be wondering what happens now? Just because the formal part of the program is over, it doesn't mean your relationship with your Mentor/Mentee has to be. It's ok to stay in touch. One of the key parts of mentoring is building relationships. You may not be in contact as often, or as a formal "Team", but I would strongly encourage you to stay in contact with your partner, and just touch base with each other now and then.

## It's also time to reflect on how you can "Pay it forward."

- How can I use what I've learned to help others?
- How can I help make the program better?

If you go to LMS and search "Coaching", there are some great courses to get you started. I would also hope you would consider enrolling in the program as a Mentor, to keep the program rolling forward.

Lastly, Evaluation Surveys will be coming out soon. These are an important tool to let the committee know how we're doing. How the program is received, and what, if any, changes need to be made. Please complete the surveys!

## Happy Mentoring!

Pictured Top: Mentoring group takes a tour in Pierre of the State Archives in the Cultural Heritage Museum.



Pictured Bottom: Group walks through the exhibits at the Cultural Heritage Museum.







## Easy Access Finance Resources for YOU!

### Patricia Devitt - Accounting Manager

Click on the graphic below to access many great resources, including tips, from the Finance Department on our Intranet site.

Each month the Finance Team will provide a new resourced/tip in the newsletter!



## SDSU Institute of Transportation Engineers Student Chapter Meet and Greet:

SDDOT and the SDSU Institute of Transportation Engineers Student Chapter co-hosted a meet and greet event on Oct. 5, 2022. This event provided one-on-one time with SDDOT employees. **Mike Behm, SDSU Alumnus/SDDOT Director of Planning and Engineering**, joined the event virtually to provide a presentation and answer questions about SDDOT careers!

This meet and greet provides a fun and laid back atmosphere that allows students to have questions answered about what a career with the SDDOT looks like. The SDDOT and SDSU ITE Student Chapter have partnered for several years to host this great event.



## October Transit Highlight

### RCPT – River Cities Public Transit

By Jennifer Boehm, Transit Transportation Specialist



**Adam Sharkey and Mallory Meier** have been at River Cities Public Transit (RCPT) a combined 22 years and have worked their way into leadership positions. Mallory started out in dispatch, went to human resources and now shares the title of Deputy Director with Adam. Adam started as a driver, moved onto the technical advisor position then to safety trainer before becoming a director. Adam and Mallory work as a team to solve issues and create new ideas to keep RCPT moving forward. They both enjoy their current positions as there is never a dull day. They may come to work with a plan of things to accomplish for the day and the need of their business completely changes their plans, but they enjoy meeting the challenge. Adam and Mallory are passionate about ensuring people have public transportation, and the community continues to get to their medical appointments, work, education, etc.

#### Here's one story of RCPT helping the community:

One-night RCPT was called to assist in transporting families away from a fire in an apartment complex. Once all residents were transported, they thought it would be best to keep at least one bus on site as a warming station for the firefighters. By keeping a bus there, they were assisting the heroes of Pierre the only way they could. It was an eye-opening and inspiring experience. They are striving to be a more significant and critical part of the fantastic emergency response team Pierre already has.

River Cities is one of the largest transit agencies in the State of South Dakota with 97 employees. They provided almost 290,000 rides and have driven over 1.3 million miles in the past year. RCPT is excited to be building a new facility in Highmore to house vehicles and provide training space for local drivers. They are also on the list to get 2 new propane vehicles to meet the low emissions guidance of the federal government. RCPT is one of the first transit agencies to try a propane vehicle in our state as an experiment to see if such vehicles can handle South Dakota's extreme weather conditions.

One of the biggest things that Mallory and Adam have learned because of the pandemic is the need to plan far in advance to meet future needs. It used to be that an agency could order a new vehicle and it would be constructed and delivered within a year. Since the pandemic, transit vehicles take much longer for manufacturers to build due to a shortage in materials and have been taking at least a year to build. The delivery time varies depending on how many options they would like on the vehicle (i.e., Cruise Control, 360 Cameras, Sync 4 Radio and Bliss Mirrors).

Adam and Mallory are proud to work for River Cities Public Transit and strive to make it an example for other agencies. They host a week-long safety training each year and constantly work with their drivers on newer and better training techniques and solutions. RCPT attends the Dakota Transit Association's (DTA's) Rodeo every year and have taken 1st place 9 of the last ten years. RCPT now provides and assists other transit agencies in their driver training programs.



The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs hosted a **State Bridge Dedication Ceremony** to honor U.S. Army Private Frederic Schroeder.

The ceremony was held at the VFW on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022, in Madison. The community and family members attended the event and DOT was represented by **Chris Voelker, Lead High Maintenance Worker, Madison shop**.

The Big Sioux River Bridge on S.D. Highway 34, one mile east of Egan, was recently dedicated to PVT Schroeder.

Schroeder, of Egan, enlisted in the U.S. Army and began his World War I tour of duty in 1918. Schroeder was killed in action Sept. 30, 1918, while serving with B-Company 361st Infantry Regiment 91st Division.



The SDDOT Maintenance crew from the Flandreau shop (**Josh Weber, Daniel Trost, Chad Urban, and William Burshiem**) installed the memorial sign. Schroeder family members present included great niece, Jayme Verhey and great, great nephew, Stephen Mengenhauser.



SDDOT team members recently attended the Sioux Falls Area Electric Vehicle Ride/Drive Event and the Rapid City Cruiser Car Show to engage with the public about South Dakota's EV Fast Charging Plan.

To learn more about EV Fast Charging, please find information available from our home page. Click this link to access the final South Dakota's EV Fast Charging Plan directly:

[https://dot.sd.gov/media/documents/EV/SDDOTEVPlan\\_final.pdf](https://dot.sd.gov/media/documents/EV/SDDOTEVPlan_final.pdf)



## Training Notes:

### HOW TO ASSIGN TRAINING

1. Find the course you want to assign
2. SELECT SESSION
3. Use dropdown menu beside session to ASSIGN
4. Checkmark "Automatically register users"
5. Check anyone who needs to take the class
6. SUBMIT

### TRAINING IDEAS?

Join a Standing Training Group (STG)!

Contact  
**DOTLMS@state.sd.us** and  
join one of our 6 STGs:

MOST  
Skills  
Design  
Planning  
Leadership  
Construction & Materials

### TRAINING TOPICS?

Got a staff meeting and wondering what to discuss? Add a short training topic to the agenda.

Contact  
**DOTLMS@state.sd.us**  
for topics and ideas for interactions.

### TRAIN THE TRAINER



**DECEMBER 8, 2022**

Great class for  
Subject Matter Experts  
tasked to help educate.

Learn how to make learning  
enjoyable and interactive.

**Register at DOTLMS.**

**Extra Mile Mentoring Book Club:**  
Take the opportunity to learn with, and from, your coworkers about growing and practicing leadership skills!

## Extra Mile Mentoring Book Club

·Dani Doorn (Assistant Pavement Management Engineer) from Pierre will moderate "Dare to Lead" which talks about "How to cultivate a braver more daring leader and how to embed the value of courage in our culture."

·The book club is limited to **35 people**.

·If you or someone you know would like to participate in the book club, please visit with your supervisor to make sure that your participation won't impact your work schedule.

·Participation is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

·Books will be provided to all participants.

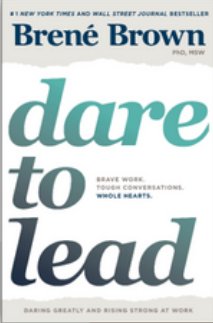
**The book club will be held in person at:**  
**Becker-Hansen Building Commission Room**  
**700 E Broadway Ave Pierre SD 57501**  
**Or via Microsoft Teams**

**Tuesday**  
**January 11, 2023**  
**11am – 2pm**

**\*This is a working lunch.**  
**Please bring your lunch**

Contact Scott to sign up:  
[scott.eisenbeisz@state.sd.us](mailto:scott.eisenbeisz@state.sd.us)  
605-626-7874

**\*Registration Ends October 28, 2022**





## Right-of-Way Program Hosts All Staff Meeting

The ROW Program held it's all-staff meeting and social event on Oct. 11 and 12, 2022. The meeting included presentations by:

- Legal counsel – Karla Engle
- Director for Planning and Engineering - Mike Behm
- Field Construction and right-of-way documentation - Bryce Olson
- Encroachments/Approach permits - Brian Vandam
- Pierre/Ft. Pierre Bridge Tour - Dean VanDeWiele

And, a customized construction-themed cake . . .



**beneFIT**  
Be well. Work well. Live well.

**Register for your onsite 2022-23 Biometric Screening** at [www.webmdhealth.com/Benefit](http://www.webmdhealth.com/Benefit)

**Flu Clinics:** State-sponsored employee flu shot clinics officially began Oct. 1, 2022. Both traditional and drive-through clinics are offered across the state. If you are unable to attend a designated state employee flu clinic shown on the schedule, you can call a local Department of Health site and schedule an appointment.

**State employees and eligible dependents enrolled in the state employee health plan may receive a flu vaccination at a DOH-sponsored event at no cost.** A complete list of state employee flu shot clinics and required forms is available at <https://bhr.sd.gov/benefits/health-plans/flu-vaccination-schedule/index.html>.



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

### October Longevity:

Tom Newell, Operations Program Assistant II – 40 Years (Central Office)

Keith Voegeli, Highway Maintenance Supervisor - 35 Years (Sioux Falls Area)

Paul Nikolas, Road Design Engineer - 30 Years (Central Office/ Sioux Falls)

Steve Neumeister, Highway Construction Project Engineer - 30 Years (Sioux Falls Area)

Robert Roth, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - 25 Years (Mitchell Area)

Jim Dorfschmidt, Transportation Project Manager - 20 Years (Belle Fourche Area)

Brad Remmich, Aeronautics Transportation Specialist II – 20 Years (Central Office)

Sonia Downs, Transportation Planning Engineer/Engineer Manager I – 20 Years (Central Office)

**Secretary Jundt** congratulates **Tom Newell, Operations Program Assistant II**, on reaching **40 years of service** with the SDDOT!

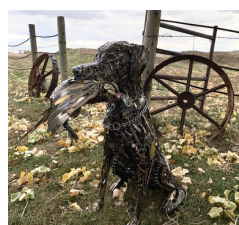


### Lee Lindsley Metal Art

Lee Lindsley, Rapid City Materials Technician, welds pieces of metal art in his free time and recently completed this sculpture of a Labrador Retriever!

The sculpture weighs nearly 120 pounds. Lee attempts to never use the same materials with each new piece of art.

The sculpture is pictured with Lee's German Shepard, Church.



### SDDOT at USD Dakota Days Parade

**Junction City Maintenance Worker, Tyler Small** pulled his tow plow through the University of South Dakota, Dakota Days Parade.

The tow plow was a big hit with the kids in attendance.

Thanks Tyler for promoting the DOT!





## SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

### October New Hires:

Trevor Lambert, Highway Maintenance Worker, Brookings  
 Michael Olson, Highway Maintenance Worker, Brookings  
 Dawson Lewis, Business Intelligence Specialist, Pierre  
 Andrew Hamann, Journey Transportation Technician, Sioux Falls  
 Jacob Lunders, Highway Maintenance Worker, Aberdeen  
 Landon Treftz, Equipment Technician, Rapid City  
 Edward Kaelin, Equipment Mechanic, Pierre  
 Nicholas Sauer, Highway Maintenance Worker, Aberdeen  
 Austin Meyers, Journey Transportation Technician, Huron  
 Gregory Feenstra, Journey Transportation Technician, Huron  
 Daryl Johnson, Highway Maintenance Worker, Aberdeen  
 Dwayne Rhian, Journey Transportation Technician, Rapid City  
 Bryan Owens, Highway Maintenance Worker, Ipswich  
 Russell Cramer, Highway Maintenance Worker, Buffalo  
 Andrew Mentele, Transportation Specialist I, Pierre  
 Jordan Lukkes, Stormwater Scientist, Pierre



### October Lateral Position Change:

Daniel Trost, Journey Transportation Technician, Sioux Falls



## Meet our SDDOT New Employees . . .



### Mike Lauritsen - Highway Maintenance Worker - Watertown

Mike started with the SDDOT the week of the ROADEO held in Sioux Falls! He enjoys hunting and woodworking; and spending time with family and grandkids.



### Brookings Highway Maintenance Worker - Trevor Lambert

Trevor is from Mitchell, South Dakota. He enjoys playing soccer, video games, hanging out with friends, and traveling. His family includes mom Jodie Cain-Lambert and brother Jackson Lambert.



### Greg Feenstra - Journey Technician - Huron

Greg was born and raised on a farm north of New Holland. He spends most of his time going to events for his two kids. He likes to hunt, when he can find the time.



## Meet our SDDOT New Employees continued . . .



### Brookings Highway Maintenance Worker - Mike Olson

Mike is married with four kids and three grandkids. He worked in a body shop for 32 years and then worked for the Daktronics Transportation Unit for several years painting and assembling signs for the DOT. He has been on the Aurora Fire Dept. for more than 20 years and with the Elkton ambulance service for 10 years along with his wife! He enjoys doing pyrotechnician shows and tinkering with cars.



### Austin Meyers - Journey Tech - Huron Area Office.

Austin grew up in Huron. He graduated from USD with a degree in criminal justice. His hobbies include riding motorcycles, doing small DIY projects, and spending time with friends/family.



**Dawson Lewis - Business Intelligence Specialist.** This a new position to DOT that will focus on leading IT development efforts through coordination with BIT, private vendors, and DOT staff, data management and reporting, and overall process improvement. Dawson formerly worked with BIT and helped with DOT software development. He has extensive knowledge of not only the State's IT systems, but insight into DOT business.



## In Sympathy . . .



Our sympathy to **Ron Hauck, Chief Pilot**, whose father Jerry Hauck of Gettysburg passed away Oct. 10, 2022.

Funeral services were held on Oct. 14, 2022, at the United Methodist Church, Gettysburg. Burial followed in the German Zion Cemetery, Tolstoy.